

Chronic Disease Indicators: Indicator Definition



Clinical breast examination among women ≥ 40 years

Category:	Cancer
Demographic Group:	Resident females aged ≥ 40 years.
Numerator:	Female respondents aged ≥ 40 years who report having a clinical breast exam within the previous 2 years.
Denominator:	Female respondents aged ≥ 40 years who report ever having or never having had a clinical breast exam (excluding unknowns and refusals).
Measures of Frequency:	Annual prevalence — crude and age-adjusted (standardized by the direct method to the year 2000 standard U.S. population, distribution 15*) — with 95% confidence interval.
Time Period of Case Definition:	Previous 2 years.
Background:	In 2000, a total of 9% of women aged ≥ 40 years had never had a clinical breast examination. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women. Female breast cancer caused approximately 40,200 deaths in 2001. Approximately 211,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer are diagnosed annually.
Significance :	Among women aged 50–69 years, detection and treatment of breast cancer at an early stage reduces the risk of breast cancer mortality by 25%–30%. Although controversy remains regarding effectiveness, a clinical breast exam is widely recommended for women aged ≥ 40 years.
Limitations of Indicator:	Mammography and clinical breast examination combined are more effective in detecting breast cancer than either examination alone.
Data Resources:	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS). http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/
Limitations of Data Resources:	As with all self-reported sample surveys, BRFSS data might be subject to systematic error resulting from noncoverage (e.g., lower telephone coverage among populations of low socioeconomic status), nonresponse (e.g., refusal to participate in the survey or to answer specific questions), or measurement (e.g., social desirability or recall bias).
Healthy People 2010 Objectives:	No objective.

* See Klein RJ, Schoenborn CA. Age adjustment using the 2000 projected U.S. population. Hyattsville, MD: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, 2001. Healthy people 2010 statistical notes, no. 20. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/statnt/statnt20.pdf>